



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM KEVIN L. FAULCONER
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SECOND DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 20, 2010
TO: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer
FROM: Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Faulconer
SUBJECT: Rolling Brownouts Data Request

Eliminating the temporary brownouts remains a priority for me and my colleagues on the City Council. One of the key issues in evaluating the impacts of this policy is the actual dollar savings versus projected savings. The City is still paying overtime when there are more vacancies to fill than personnel available from the browned out units. This is a result of continuing overtime needs that cannot be eliminated by the brownouts, including comp time, military leave, sick leave, injury and vacation.

Everyday there are stations throughout the city that could staff an engine if one or two more firefighters were brought back to work. On any given day, there are not enough people taking off to fully brown out the stations as outlined in the brownout plan. It is my understanding that in these cases, if there is a full crew of a captain, engineer, firefighter paramedic and firefighter, then one of the browned out stations can be opened. My concern is that when there is a partial crew, extra firefighters are dispersed throughout the city.

I would like to examine the cost factor involved and look at the possibility of bringing back to work the additional firefighters needed to form a complete engine company. How often does this occur, and how much money would it take to fully staff partial crews? I believe the benefit of this service to the public could far outweigh the overtime costs. Potentially, for few additional dollars, the City could brown out fewer stations.

Please provide me with the actual overtime savings the brownouts have provided on a monthly basis since they have been in effect, taking into account the days when the City could not brown out all the units as well as the days when partial crews were being paid.

In addition to providing an update to the actual savings of the brownouts, would you please provide an update to the proposals put forward by some of my colleagues and any other remedies that are being reviewed to bring the eight engines back online.

Thank you for your assistance.

cc: Honorable Mayor Jerry & Councilmembers
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Javier Mainar, Fire Chief